

6-14-17

Please read at the Education Committee for HB 4647

I am Judy Hart. I have lived in the State of Michigan for 65 years. I have lived in the Upper Peninsula, Bear Lake and Ann Arbor. I went to public schools, my child went to public schools, and I believe in the public schools as being the vehicle to give a fair playing field of education to all children.

Why would anyone want to change the progress in the pension reform that the Hybrid Pension has done? It has been calculated that by 2038 ALL the pensions will be 100% fully funded if this is left the way it is now.

The closing of the Hybrid Pension will cost taxpayers \$2 Billion. The continuing erosion of teacher's pensions will cost taxpayers upwards to \$46 Billion if they close the Hybrid Pension, instead of bringing down this cost by continuing to have the Hybrid Pension fund both pensions.

Not having a pension system benefit will cause the best and brightest teachers to seek other avenues of employment. The continued lack of funding for public schools or the teachers is not how I want my tax dollars spent.

I wonder what is the incentive to closing this pension? Is it to benefit charter schools and private schools? Is it from being given financial incentive from people who are benefiting from charter and private schools? Our legislators should be representing the taxpayers. I find the legislators that are busy pushing through legislation that hurts public schools seem to have an agenda. This is not how we want our government to work.

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